

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS Network

VOLUME II, No. 2 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS PROGRAM WINTER, 1999

19 New National Historic Landmarks Considered for Designation

By Patty Henry

The Landmarks Committee met on Monday, December 13, 1999 to discuss and recommend 19 properties for NHL designation, one property for an NHL boundary change, and one property for withdrawal of designation.

The Committee's recommendations were reported to the full Advisory Board at their meeting on December 14 and 15. The full Advisory Board then sent their recommendations forward to the Secretary of the Interior. A decision on these properties is pending with the Secretary.

The Landmarks Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board reviewed and considered the following 16 properties for a Committee report to the full Advisory Board for the Board's recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior for designation as National Historic Landmarks.

- **Shenandoah-Dives (Mayflower) Mill**, San Juan County, Colorado. An innovative process known as flotation diverted the late 19th-century crisis in the mining industry by efficiently and economically concentrating complex minerals that were practically impossible to treat by earlier methods.



Located in Greenwich Village, New York City, the Stonewall Inn was the focal point of a series of disturbances during 1969 that led to the modern gay and lesbian civil rights movement. Photo courtesy Andrew Dolkart, 1999.

Landmarks Committee Names New Members

By Patty Henry

The Landmarks Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board is responsible for reviewing the documentation on properties that have been proposed for National Historic Landmark designation.

Those properties that they believe meet the NHL criteria are recommended to the full NPS Advisory Board for the Board's

Congress Directs NHL Survey to Launch School Desegregation Theme Study

By Turkiya Lowe and Susan Salvatore

On May 17, 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* that "separate but equal" had no place in public education and was unconstitutional under the Fourteenth Amendment.

SEE PROPERTIES, PAGE 5, COLUMN 1

SEE MEMBERS, PAGE 8, COLUMN 3

SEE SCHOOL THEME, PAGE 9, COLUMN 2

New book on NHLs, see page 3.

THE NHL SURVEY

National Historic Landmarks Network

Published by the National Park Service

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National Historic Landmarks Network
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Mission of the National Park Service

*The National Park Service is dedicated to
conserving unimpaired the natural and cultural
resources and values of the National Park System
for the enjoyment, education and inspiration
of this and future generations. The Service
is also responsible for managing a great variety
of national and international programs
designed to help extend the benefits of natural
and cultural resource conservation and outdoor
recreation throughout this country and the world*

HPS
Heritage
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Services



**U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Cultural Resources**

Finding America's Treasures: The Role of the National Historic Landmarks Survey

By John Sprinkle

Anyone can prepare a National Historic Landmark nomination. The job of the National Historic Landmarks Survey, in partnership with other NPS offices, is to foster the nomination of nationally significant places and shepherd them through the designation process.

To assist the public in preparing nominations, we have recently published a National Register Bulletin, *How to Prepare National Historic Landmark Nominations*. Currently 2,277 places bear the distinction of being a National Historic Landmark.

One way the Survey identifies new NHLs is through "theme studies." Currently, theme studies on themes like Earliest Americans, American Labor History, and the History of Educational Desegregation in Public Schools are underway. The Survey continues to process nominations based upon previously completed theme studies, such as one on Underground Railroad resources.

NHL designation includes extensive public review. Twice yearly, the National Park System Advisory Board reviews recommendations of its Landmarks Committee, a volunteer group of experts in history, architectural history, and historic preservation, regarding NHL nominations. Based on these recommendations, the Secretary of the Interior designates about 25 properties each year.

Public involvement also means outreach. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., published *National Landmarks, America's Treasures*, the National Park Foundation's *Complete Guide to National Historic Landmarks*. Written by S. Allen Chambers, Jr., with a foreword by Hillary Rodham Clinton, this comprehensive guide describes the role of each of these very special places in American history.

Working to recognize nationally significant historic places, the National Historic Landmarks Survey is a proud member of the NHL Program.

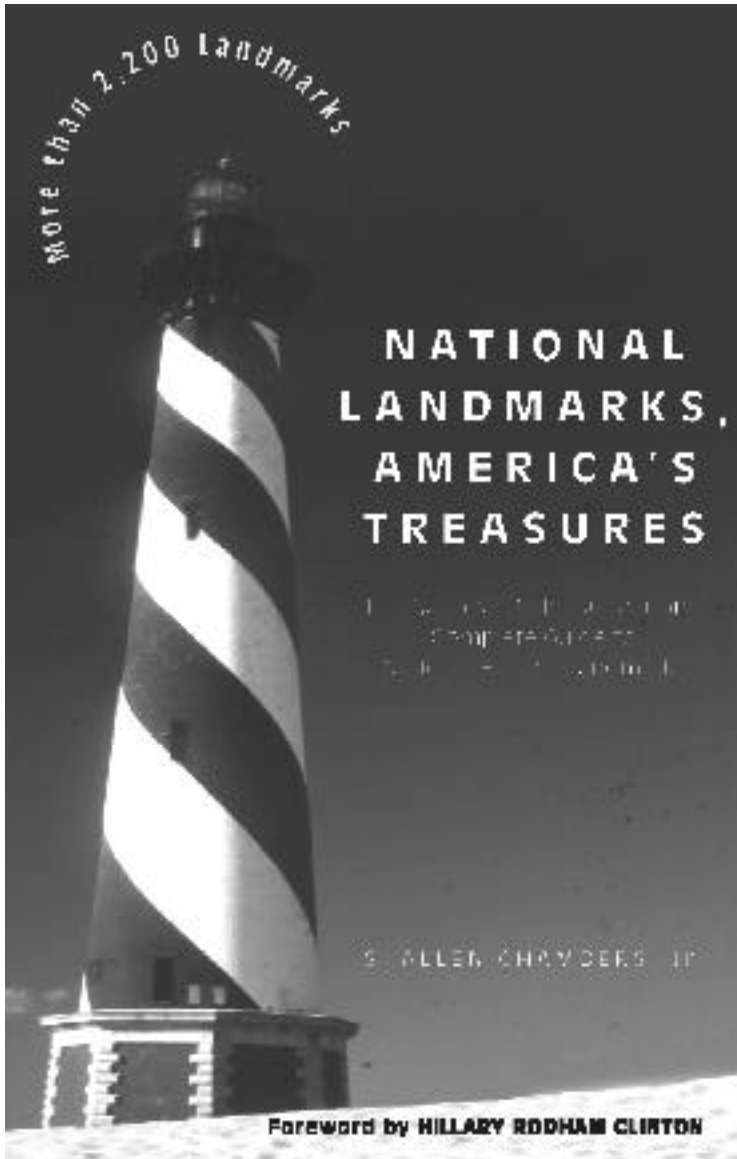
This issue of *NHL Network* covers recent work of the National Historic Landmark Survey.

John H. Sprinkle, Jr., Ph.D., is the Supervisory Historian with the National Historic Landmarks Survey, National Park Service.

RECENT BOOK RELEASE

From the National Park Foundation and John Wiley and Sons, Inc.—

Discover the Places That Make America Great!



**National Landmarks,
America's Treasures
Now Available**

Explore the National Park Foundation's definitive guide to America's National Historic Landmarks—the ultimate catalog of the nation's treasures. Written by Allen S. Chambers, Jr., with a foreword by Hillary Rodham Clinton, this guide covers all 50 states, capturing the American experience through famous icons such as the Brooklyn Bridge, and Cape Hatteras lighthouse, Lincoln's boyhood home, and more than 2,200 other nationally significant places.

Based on information contained in National Park Service nomination files, the guide is organized by state and county, describes each National Historic Landmark, and includes 385 illustrations. For more information about this comprehensive guide to National Historic Landmarks, contact John Wiley & Sons, Inc., at 800.225.5945, or by e-mail <custser@wiley.com>.

NEWS FROM THE NHL SURVEY

Friends of Friendless Landmarks: Vernacular Architecture in the National Historic Landmarks Survey

By Michelle St. Clair

Vernacular structures designated as National Historic Landmarks exemplify some variation of vernacular architecture that is nationally significant and maintains a high degree of integrity. Vernacular NHLs are excellent examples of the more common and basic forms of architecture. Some say that vernacular architecture is most significant because it reflects everyday life for common people.

The study of vernacular architecture is often limited by the fact that the largest and most substantial buildings generally are the ones that survive, whereas the truly ordinary structures, usually less substantial, often vanish. Because vernacular structures are localized versions of widely known forms, their study can only occur within a local or regional context, where the connection between built form and local culture can be made.

The National Historic Landmarks Survey recognizes that vernacular architecture is poorly represented in our records. Of the nearly 2,300 properties designated as National Historic Landmarks, only 23 individual structures and 11 historic districts are classified as vernacular architecture. In the NHL priority list of sites that appear to warrant nomination as landmarks, only one, the Third Haven Meeting House in Maryland, is classified as vernacular.

In early December, one vernacular structure, the Abel and Mary

Nicholson House, will be submitted for consideration to the National Park System Advisory Board, the body that recommends NHL designation to the Secretary of the Interior. The NHL nomination makes the dual case for national significance and a high degree of integrity.

The 1722 Abel and Mary Nicholson House is a remarkably intact example of patterned-end brick architecture featuring a diaper pattern and date in vitrified brick, reflecting a highstyle version of a common Mid-Atlantic building tradition. When constructed, the original block of the house appeared much as it does today. Originally accessed from the Alloway Creek, the structure today is reached down a half-mile dirt lane through a culturally intact landscape of farm fields, wetlands, and forest. In 1859, a frame kitchen was replaced by a longitudinally placed two-and-a-half story, brick addition.

The main two-and-a-half story, three-bay structure is an outstanding example of a Delaware Valley, brick, patterned-end house whose integrity allows it to stand alone as the only known, pristine survivor of an Anglo-American building tradition that existed for three-quarters of a century. When constructed, it was at a scale and with a level of detail that made it a mansion in relation to other dwellings of the period in the area; the crowning touch was the diaper pattern on the east end. The 1722 block of the structure has existed for over 275 years in an unaltered state, enhanced by a patina of age, with only routine maintenance, no major remodeling or restoration, and without the intrusion of electricity or a central heating system. The 1859 addition, with a comparable

level of architectural integrity, enhances the significance of the property.

Building traditions of the early United States can be divided into four distinct regions and associated styles—New England, Southern, Tidewater, and the Mid-Atlantic. The Abel and Mary Nicholson House has the potential of filling this early construction period gap for the Mid-Atlantic region by representing a building style—patterned brickwork—that in the Mid-Atlantic region, specifically New Jersey, "reached a higher state of elaboration and acceptance than anywhere else in America." It is the regional significance of the Fairbanks House, Bacon's Castle, Drayton Hall, and now the Abel and Mary Nicholson House, that makes these properties nationally significant. The Abel and Mary Nicholson House joins this group of nationally significant vernacular buildings as it reflects an early building tradition of the Mid-Atlantic region.

The NHL Survey anticipates that the Abel and Mary Nicholson House will be designated a National Historic Landmark early in 2000. Further inclusion of vernacular architecture within the NHL Survey addresses larger National Park Service efforts to recognize the many ethnic groups that have made significant contributions to our country's history. Recently, the NHL Survey has begun to work with the Vernacular Architecture Forum to identify viable vernacular architecture candidates and to draw upon the VAF membership's expertise in identifying regional architectural patterns.

An intern with the National Historic Landmarks Survey, National Park Service, during 1999, Michelle St. Clair is a history student at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

MORE NATIONAL NEWS



An excellent example of vernacular architecture from the early 18th century, the Abel and Mary Nicholson house in Salem County, New Jersey exhibits a high degree of architectural integrity. Photo courtesy Ronald E. Magill, 1997.

FROM PROPERTIES, PAGE 1

- This mill is the finest example of a selective flotation mill reflecting the distinctive characteristics of the hard-rock milling process in the early twentieth century.
- ❑ **Grove Street Cemetery**, New Haven, Connecticut. This cemetery represents a milestone in the historical development of the cemetery as a distinct institution. Incorporated in 1797, the cemetery association was formed by a group of private citizens intent on creating a dignified and functional burying ground for the entire community.
 - ❑ **Whitehall (Henry M. Flagler House)**, Palm Beach, Florida. This was the winter home of Henry Morrison Flagler, one of John D. Rockefeller's two original partners and a founder of Standard Oil Company. Later in life Flagler used his immense wealth to develop the State of Florida. Whitehall is also a great architectural building and epitomizes the luxurious American country houses of the turn-of-the-century.
 - ❑ **Fort James Jackson**, Chatham County, Georgia. This fort was built by the U.S. Government between 1808 and 1812 to defend the harbor and city of Savannah, Georgia, and is one of only five surviving Second System Seacoast Fortifications. It contains most of its original design of 1808 and is unique in shape from the other remaining Second System forts.
 - ❑ **Arthur Heurtley House**, Oak Park, Illinois. This house has been widely recognized as a critical work in the history of

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George Washington's Childhood Home, Ferry Farm, Fredericksburg, Virginia. Day campers at Ferry Farm try to recreate Washington's apocryphal throwing a stone across the Rappahannock River. Ferry Farm was nominated as a National Historic Landmark for its association with great American ideals. Photo courtesy National Park Service.

modern architecture both nationally and internationally. It is understood to be the first fully mature Prairie Style house and marks a pivotal point in the early development of the career of the noted architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

- ❑ **Kennebec Arsenal**, Augusta, Maine. This arsenal is the most intact early nineteenth century munitions depot in the United States. Built between 1828 and 1838, the size of this facility was directly related to the Northeast Boundary Controversy, a border dispute which lasted from 1820 until 1842 and almost led to a third war with Great Britain.
- ❑ **Bollman Truss Railroad Bridge**, Howard County, Maryland. This bridge is the sole-surviving example of a revolutionary design in the history of American bridge engineering which was invented and patented by Wendel A. Bollman, a major figure in 19th century civil engineering. In addition, the bridge is one of the oldest standing iron railroad bridges in the United States.
- ❑ **Sotterly**, St. Mary's County, Maryland. The main house is one of two surviving examples of post-in-ground framing extant in the Chesapeake region of Maryland, Delaware and Virginia and provides exceptionally rare material evidence of this construction method. In addition to its signal importance as an architectural artifact, Sotterly's physical structure also embodies valuable insights into Chesapeake society and culture.
- ❑ **Nathan and Polly Johnson Properties**, New Bedford, Massachusetts. This was the first home of the famed fugitive and later abolitionist Frederick

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Sotterley, Hollywood, Maryland. This plantation was nominated for its nationally significant architecture and landscape. The principal dwelling contains an exceedingly rare survival—for the Mid-Atlantic region—of post-in-ground construction dating to c. 1717; the property exhibits a variety of 18th century alterations and additions. Photo courtesy Kirk Ranzetta, 1998.

Douglass after his 1838 escape from slavery. Nathan and Polly Johnson also played a large role in the antebellum effort to eradicate American slavery, and in assisting slaves escaping from the South on the Underground Railroad.

- ❑ **Fort St. Pierre Site**, Warren County, Mississippi. Established in 1718, this fort was located about half way between two major French colonial population centers (Mobile and New Orleans in the south, and the Illinois country in the north) in what was a critical buffer zone.

Since 1670 the English had made great inroads into the Mississippi Valley. To help ward off further encroachments, Fort St. Pierre and its related community were established between the Chickasaw and the Natchez, thus serving as an important buffer settlement.

- ❑ **Abel and Mary Nicholson House**, Salem County, New Jersey. Built in 1722, the main structure is an outstanding example of a Delaware Valley, brick, patterned-end house whose integrity allows it to stand alone as the only known,

pristine survivor of an Anglo-American building tradition. As there are New England, Tidewater and Southern regional early building traditions, this house represents the Mid-Atlantic region in this regional grouping of significant early buildings.

- ❑ **Stonewall**, New York City, New York. This building is associated with events that outstandingly represent the struggle for gay civil rights in America. This site encompasses a several block area in Greenwich Village that was the location of a series of

events, collectively known as Stonewall, that occurred between June 28 and July 3, 1969. This is regarded by many as the single most important occurrence that led to the modern gay and lesbian liberation movement.

- ❑ **Gettysburg National Military Park Visitors Center/Cyclorama Building**, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. This building is one of the finest pioneering examples of visitor centers constructed by the National Park Service in order to bring a new level of interpretation and visitor services to its national parks and ranks among the most ambitious as well as most distinctive examples of its type in the post-World War II era. The building is also one of the most sophisticated, fully developed examples outside the residential sphere of the work of Richard Neutra, an international leader in modern architecture design during the twentieth century.
- ❑ **James and Mary Boykin Chesnut House**, Camden, South Carolina. This is the most important property associated with the writing of Mary Boykin Chesnut's remarkable first hand account of southern society during the Civil War. This work is acknowledged by literary scholars of the subject as the most important piece of literature produced by a Confederate author; historians have long recognized the journal's value as a rich source of information concerning the people and events of the war and life in general on the southern home front.
- ❑ **Highland Park Shopping Village**, Highland Park, Texas. This is a complex of seven detached commercial units focused on a central pedestrian and automobile parking plaza

which is noted for its enclosed parking areas within architecturally cohesive commercial blocks. The complex represents a pivotal point in the evolution of the shopping center as a distinctive building type in twentieth century architecture in the United States.

- ❑ **George Washington's Boyhood Homesite**, Stafford County, Virginia. This site, also known as Ferry Farm, contains archeological resources that have yielded new information about the material circumstances of George Washington's life, and have demonstrated the potential to yield additional data that will affect scholarly understanding of Washington's early years. In addition, the site has specific associations with stories and traditions related to Washington's youth that have become a fundamental part of American national culture and ideals.

For more information on designated National Historic Landmarks, visit the NHL Survey on line at <www.cr.nps.gov/nhl>.

Patty Henry is a Historian with the National Historic Landmarks Survey, National Park Service.

Erratum: NHL Network Vol. 11, No. 1, page 5, "Mining Hospital Given New Life," was written by Tom Keohan with Lysa Wegman-French. Tom Keohan is a Historical Architect with Cultural Resources and National Register Programs, Intermountain Support Office—Denver, National Park Service.

FROM MEMBERS, PAGE 1

recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior for designation as National Historic Landmarks. The Committee is composed of two members of the appointed NPS Advisory Board (for this Advisory Board they are Mr. Parker Westbrook, who has been appointed Chairman of the Landmarks Committee, and Ms. Marie Ridder) and a varying number of other professionals appointed by the Chairman of the full Advisory Board. These professionals are recommended for appointment by the National Park Service staff based on their expertise in fields such as archeology, architecture, architectural history, cultural resource management, and anthropology. A brief discussion of these professionals, who volunteer their time to serve on the Landmarks Committee, follows.

Dr. Ian Brown is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alabama. His specialty is the archeology of the Southeastern United States where he has conducted fieldwork for the past 28 years. He has served as Director of the Alabama Museum of Natural History, as Assistant Director of Harvard University's Peabody Museum, and as Curator of Gulf Coast Archaeology. Since 1993, he has been an active member of the Society for American Archaeology's National Historic Landmark Committee, serving as its Chair since 1997.

Dr. Richard Guy Wilson holds the Commonwealth Professors Chair in Architectural History at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he is also Chair of the Department of Architectural History. His specialty is the architecture, design, and art of the 19th and 20th century both in America and abroad. He

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has received a number of academic honors, among them a Guggenheim fellow, prizes for distinguished writing, and in 1986 he was made an honorary member of the American Institute of Architects.

Mr. S. Allen Chambers, a native of Lynchburg, Virginia, now lives in Washington, D.C., where he was for many years an architectural historian with the National Park Service's Historic American Buildings Survey. He has written the text for a book, sponsored by the National Parks Foundation, describing the 2,277 National Historic Landmarks. He is also conducting research for a book on architecture in West Virginia, part of a state-by-state series sponsored by the American Society of Architectural Historians. He is a former vice-chairman of the Virginia State Review Board (for historic properties) and a past president of the Preservation Alliance of Virginia.

Dr. Elizabeth Clark-Lewis, an Associate Professor of History and a specialist in 20th century Washington, D.C. history, is currently the Director of the Public History Program in the History Department of Howard University. She was also a Post Doctoral research fellow at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. She serves on the Executive Council of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History as well as national committees of the National Council on Public History and Association of Black Women Historians. She is a founding member of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Association.

Dr. Allyson Brooks is the State Historic Preservation Officer for the State of Washington and directs the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. She has served as the State Programs

Administrator Coordinator - Historian/Historical Archaeologist for the Minnesota Department of Transportation and as a Historical Archaeologist for the State Historical Preservation Center and State Historic Preservation Office in South Dakota. She has also worked as a Archeologist/ Historical Archeologist for the USDA Forest Service.

Patty Henry is a Historian with the National Historic Landmarks Survey, National Park Service.

FROM SCHOOL THEME, PAGE 1

In the Opinion of the Court, Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote, "To separate them from others of similar age and qualifications solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely to ever be undone." This ruling overturned the so-called "separate but equal" doctrine announced by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) that kept African Americans in inferior schools for decades.

As we approach the 50th anniversary of this ruling, Congress authorized the National Park Service to conduct a National Historic Landmark theme study on racial desegregation in public education in the United States. The survey will consist of an historic context and the identification of five properties that are nationally significant in illustrating the school desegregation experiences of ethnic groups across the country. Undertaking the historic context are four scholars identified by the Organization of American Historians in partnership with the National Park Service.

In the narrative context, the scholars will cover such phases in

the theme as school segregation, challenges to school segregation, massive resistance by states and communities to the court's ruling, and methods of school integration. Subtopics include community responses to desegregation, approaches to desegregation such as busing and pairing, and significant persons, places and events.

NHL Survey staff will identify potential landmarks to join other sites previously designated. An example of an existing National Historic Landmark is Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas where President Eisenhower ordered federal troops to escort the Little Rock Nine to integrate the school. Another example are the Sumner and Monroe Elementary Schools in Topeka, Kansas (*Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*) where parents filed suit to admit their daughter to a white school near home as opposed to an almost two-mile walk to the black school.

In completing this property search, the NHL survey staff sent nearly 500 letters to an NPS diversity mailing list containing Historically Black Colleges and Universities, agencies, and individuals with an interest in ethnic groups. At the state and national level, mailings were also sent to all State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and Federal Preservation Officers requesting information on known properties and knowledgeable individuals. As a result of the mailing response and background research, NHL survey staff are currently considering a number of properties identified as being associated with individuals, community groups, and agencies involved in the efforts of a variety of ethnic groups to influence and achieve school desegregation.

The final product will be a National Register of Historic

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Places Multiple Property Documentation Form similar to that completed for the NHL Underground Railroad Resources in the United States Theme Study completed in September 1998. Included in the study will be the context, associated property types, registration requirements, a listing of properties designated under this theme, and a bibliography. To assure a quality report, the

National Park Service has invited other scholars and knowledgeable individuals to peer review the document. The desegregation theme study will culminate with its presentation by the Secretary of the Interior to Congress in October 2000.

Note: Designated an NHL in 1998, Robert Russa Moton High School in Farmville, Virginia was the sub -

ject of one of five desegregation cases argued as Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. See related article, NHL Network, Volume I, No. 2, Fall-Winter 1998.

A history student at Howard University, Turkiya Lowe was a Student Conservation Association Intern with NPS in 1999.

Susan Salvatore works with the National Historic Landmarks Survey, National Park Service, as the principal investigator for the desegregation theme study.



In 1957, Little Rock's Central High School was the site of a federally enforced effort to integrate public high schools after the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* Supreme Court decision. This property was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1982 and made a National Historic Site in 1998. Photo courtesy Little Rock Central High School Museum and Visitor's Center.

NHL BITS AND BYTES

NHL CONTACT

NHL Survey Contact Announced

The National Historic Landmarks Survey public contact for copies of nominations, questions about individual NHLs, and information about the designation process is Patty Henry who can be reached at 202.343.8163 or by e-mail <patty_henry@nps.gov>.

CONFERENCE

Recent Past II

At last, the sequel to the 1995 conference held in Chicago—a milestone in advancing efforts to preserve our modern heritage. Preserving the Recent Past II will be held October 11-13, 2000, in Philadelphia. Recent Past II will address new and often controversial public policy and planning issues, technical and conservation treatments, and reuse strategies.

The conference location is the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society (PSFS) Building, designed by Howe and Lescaze in 1932 and designated a NHL in 1976. For more information about the conference write Preserving the Recent Past II, National Park Service, Heritage Preservation Services, 1849 C Street, NW—NC200, Washington, DC, 20240, or visit <www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/recentpast2.htm>.

PUBLICATION

How-To for NHL Nominations

The National Historic Landmarks Survey is pleased to announce publication of *How to Prepare National Historic Landmark Nominations* as part of the National Register Bulletin series.

This volume provides valuable guidance for anyone considering preparation of a NHL nomination, or who might wish to improve existing NHL documentation.

To order your free copy contact National Register publications at 202.343.8012 or visit <www.cr.nps.gov/nr/nrpubs.html>.

FUNDING NEWS

Grant Deadlines

Following are application deadlines and contact information for grants to nationally significant cultural resources, including National Historic Landmarks.

- ❑ **Battlefield Grants—January 14, 2000.** Completed applications must be received by the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program on or before January 14, 2000. Late applications will not be considered. For more information contact the American Battlefield Protection

Program Grants Manager at 202.343.1210 or visit <http://www2.cr.nps.gov/abpp/index.htm>.

- ❑ **Historic Interiors and "Sense of Place" Grants—February 1, 2000.** Completed applications must be received by the National Trust for Historic Preservation Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund or Johanna Favrot Fund by February 1, 2000. For more information phone 202.588.6179 or visit <www.nthp.org>.

TRAINING KIT

Look for National Historic Landmarks Program Training Kit Soon

A 1999 CRTI grant was awarded to the NHL Assistance Initiative to develop a Training Kit for the NHL Program.

Copies will be provided to NHL program staff and State Historic Preservation Offices nationwide that can be loaned to stewards and friends of NHLs.

Each kit will include slides, a script, and an animated version of the slide show. For more information, contact Paula Cook, 202.343.1137 or by e-mail, <paula_cook@nps.gov>.

Visit the One-Stop NHL Web Page at
<www.cr.nps.gov/nhl>

to learn more about the NHL program, on-line owners discussion group, theme studies, virtual visits to NHLs, the NHL database, and more!

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS *Network*

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